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NEWS RELEASE

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Summer Learning BINGO Ends Aug. 15

DUBUQUE, Iowa – The “summer slide” is the term used to describe the loss or “slide” in skills children may experience over the summer if they don’t continue to read. Studies show that the summer slide can force teachers to spend over four weeks re-teaching the previous year’s skills at the beginning of a new school year just to recover the skills lost over the summer.

To promote summer learning and raise awareness of the dreaded “summer slide”, the City of Dubuque’s Summer Learning Coordinator, an AmeriCorps VISTA with Dubuque’s Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, created the Summer Learning BINGO game. The game began in April and was announced in the Leisure Services Summer Activities Brochure (p. 39-40). The game is scheduled to end on Friday, Aug. 15. Participants who return the bingo form will be eligible for a drawing for ‘Family Fun’ prize packages.

Aimed at increasing family learning during the summer months, the 20 BINGO activities encourage families to “Read, Explore, Ask & Answer” questions, and “Do” fun learning projects together. Participants complete one or two activities from each column to spell out R.E.A.D. or complete all the activities for a “blackout”...the message you send will be the same, your family values reading and learning even when school is out!

“We loved doing this as a family,” said Christy Dahlman. “By doing the activities, I realized there are so many different ways to read without books! We love the library program, but this brings reading to a whole different level.”

Dahlman described her family’s favorite activity: “We read ‘Stuart Little’ as a family. It was great because everyone became involved – my youngest with Down Syndrome was our illustrator and scribbled pictures while the others summarized, questioned and defined fun, new words.”

Like many other families in Dubuque, the Dahlmans were enticed by the prizes they could win. “At first, we were hoping to win the fun prizes that we can’t afford to do as a family like the waterpark, but now as school is getting closer, the Back-to-School Prize with \$150 gift card and haircuts for the kids looks like the best prize! ***Even if we don’t win anything from the game, we still won because of the time we spent together!***”

The Dahlmans are determined to get a blackout and complete all the activities and, with four kids, she is turning in four slips for four chances to win one of the 20+ prizes!!! Certain prizes are reserved for those that complete a blackout, so participating families are encouraged to fill out how many activities they completed as a family. The deadline is nearing to get your name into the drawing, but you can still “Climb the Summer Slide” and R.E.A.D. to win prizes!

BINGO cards can be picked up at the Multicultural Family Center (MFC), Carnegie-Stout Public Library, the Leisure Services Department at Bunker Hill, the Kennedy Mall, and all Hy-Vee stores. Drop off completed forms at MFC and Leisure Services Department at Bunker Hill to be entered for a chance to win a “Family Fun” prize package. Winners of the drawing for 'Family Fun' prizes will be notified Monday, Aug. 18.

For more information, contact Stacy Seyer, AmeriCorps VISTA Summer Learning Coordinator, at 563-690-6048 or sseyer@cityofdubuque.org.

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